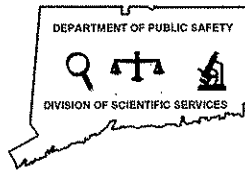




STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

March 3, 2009

Rep. Stephen Dargan, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrea Stillman, Co-Chairman
Public Safety and Security Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

HB 6563 AN ACT CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION OF MISSING PERSONS REPORTS

The Department of Public Safety advises of fiscal and other concerns.

This proposed bill would adopt a model missing persons act and mandate compliance with all of its statutory procedures by Connecticut law enforcement agencies, including the Connecticut State Police. The Department of Public Safety believes that great caution should be exercised in enacting statutory mandates for law enforcement procedure. The Connecticut State Police and all of Connecticut's municipal police departments have limited resources with which to carry out a wide range of public safety responsibilities.

The Department of Public currently already has specific mandated procedures in its A&O manual setting forth requirements for handling of missing persons cases. Those procedures are currently being updated and revised and will encompass most of the intent of this proposed bill.

Passage of this bill would have significant fiscal impact as it requires that DNA samples be taken from family members of the missing person and forwarded to the Division of Scientific Services within the Department of Public Safety for analysis. It also requires that all DNA profiles be uploaded into a missing persons database at the Division of Scientific Services of the Department of Public Safety and all appropriate and suitable federal database systems.

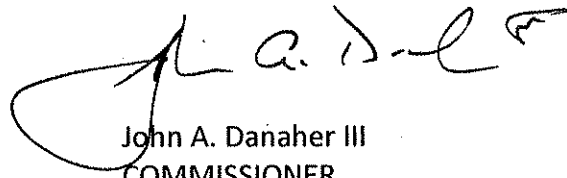
According to language of the bill these DNA samples would be required even if the person reporting has no personal knowledge of the facts, the circumstances suggest that the disappearance may be voluntary, and there is no indication that the missing person was in the jurisdiction served by the law enforcement agency at the time of the disappearance. This would be a waste of limited public safety resources.

Section 6 of the proposed bill is contrary to the AMBER Alert policy of both State and National guidelines

Section 7 of the bill would require the Department of Public Safety "Missing Persons Unit" to enter all collected information relating to the missing person case to applicable federal databases. This bill would mandate changes to existing agency operations and require an actual staffed Missing Persons Unit (probably a Sgt and at least 2 Troopers). Further, entry of this information into NCIC is the responsibility of the originating agency. If Department of Public Safety and any of its troops is the originating agency, this is appropriate. If any of the state's municipal police departments is the originating agency, then that department should enter information directly into NCIC.

The bill requires the law enforcement agency, upon acceptance of a missing person report, to inform the person filing the report that there are two clearinghouses for missing persons' information. It should be noted that these clearinghouses serve only as facilitators of information on a limited basis. They do not play an investigative role.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Danaher III", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a flourish at the end.

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER
Department of Public Safety